

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A device for the digital exposure of light-sensitive materials, with an electronic picture memory for storing a master image, with an exposure unit which comprises a light source, an electronically activatable spatial light modulator for representing a two-dimensional part picture of the master image, and imaging optics for projection of the two-dimensional part picture onto the light-sensitive material, with a drive device comprising motors and a motor control, for the movement of the exposure unit parallel to the surface of the light-sensitive material, with a scroll means for scrolling a picture strip of the master image through the light modulator, and with a control device for synchronizing the drive device with the scroll means, wherein a rapid intermediate memory for storing a strip-like region of the master image is provided, from which the picture data for the two-dimensional part picture to be exposed in each case, may be transmitted onto the light modulator synchronously with the movement of the exposure unit.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate memory is arranged in the exposure unit.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate memory comprises two part memories for the storage of two picture strips of the master image, and wherein during the transmission of the data from the first part memory to the light modulator for the exposure of the first picture strip, the data for the exposure of the next picture strip of the master image may be transmitted from the picture memory to the second part memory.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, wherein the control device comprises a computer with a control program, wherein the picture memory is also accommodated in the computer.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 4, wherein the control program comprises an exposure data manager, a picture data manager and a position data manager, wherein the picture data of the picture memory, is divided into

data packages suitable for the stripwise exposure by the exposure data manager, and are transferred to the picture data manager, wherein the exposure data manager produces position data and speed data for the motor control, which are transferred to the position data manager.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 5, wherein the control device comprises the scroll means which cooperates with a trigger card designed with regard to hardware, wherein the trigger card is connected to position sensors which deliver data on the actual position of the exposure unit, and wherein the trigger card controls the data flow from the intermediate memory to the light modulator synchronously with the movement of the exposure unit, wherein a handshake between the trigger card and the motor control causes the motor control to call up the position- and speed data from the position data manager and to accordingly activate the servomotors.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 6, wherein the scroll means cooperates with the picture data manager in a manner such that the stripwise transmission of the picture data from the picture data manager to the intermediate memory is always effected just at the time when no data for the

activation of the light modulator is taken from the respective part memory.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, wherein the exposure time for a pixel is roughly equal to the travel time which the exposure unit requires for travelling over a pixel width.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, wherein the division of the master image into picture strips is effected in a manner such that the picture strips partly overlap and that the light quantity per pixel column orientated in the scroll direction, which serves for the exposure, is arranged reducing towards the edges of the picture strips, so that a uniform exposure of the complete printing plate results.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A device according to claim 1, wherein the division of the master image into picture strips is effected in a manner such that the picture strips abut on one another in a seamless manner and that the light quantity per pixel column orientated in the scroll direction, which serves for exposure, is set such that the optical impression of the left

and of the right edge of the picture strip is identical, so that a uniform exposure of the complete printing plate results.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method for the digital exposure of light-sensitive materials using a device with an electronic picture memory for storing a master image, with an exposure unit which comprises a light source, an electronically activatable spatial light modulator for representing a two-dimensional part picture of the master image, and imaging optics for the projection of the two-dimensional part picture onto the light sensitive material, with a drive device, comprising motors and a motor control, for moving the exposure unit parallel to the surface of the light-sensitive material, with a scroll means for scrolling a picture strip of the master image through the light modulator, and with a control device for synchronizing the drive device with the scroll means, wherein the method encompasses the use of a rapid intermediate memory in which a strip-like region of the master image is stored, from which the picture data for the two-dimensional part picture to be exposed in each case is transmitted onto the light modulator synchronously with the movement of the exposure unit.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 11, wherein the intermediate memory comprises two part memories for storing two picture strips of the master image, and wherein during the transmission of the data from a first part memory to the light modulator for the exposure of a first picture strip, the data for the exposure of the next picture strip of the master image is transmitted from the picture memory to the second part memory.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 11, wherein the control device comprises a computer with a control program, wherein the control program comprises an exposure data manager, a picture data manager and a position data manager, wherein the picture data of the picture memory is divided by way of the exposure data manager into data packages which are suitable for the stripwise exposure, and are transferred to the picture data manager, and wherein the exposure data manager produces position data and speed data for the motor control which is transferred to the position data manager.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 13, wherein the control device comprises the scroll means, wherein the scroll means cooperates with a trigger card which is

designed with regard to hardware and which is connected to position sensors, wherein the position sensors provide data on the actual position of the exposure unit, and wherein the trigger card controls the data flow from the intermediate memory to the light modulator synchronously with the movement of the exposure unit, and wherein a handshake between the trigger card and the motor control causes the motor control to call up the position- and speed data from the position data manager, and to accordingly activate the servomotors.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 14, wherein the scroll means cooperates with the picture data manager in a manner such that the stripwise transmission of the picture data from the picture data manager to the intermediate memory is always effected just at the time when no data for the activation of the light modulator is taken from the respective part memory.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 11, wherein the exposure time for a pixel is roughly equal to the travel time which the exposure unit requires for travelling over a pixel width.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 11, wherein the division of the master image into picture strips is effected in a manner such that the picture strips partly overlap, and that the light quantity per pixel column orientated in the scroll direction, which serves for exposure, is arranged decreasing towards the edges of the picture strip, so that a uniform exposure of the complete printing plate results.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 11, wherein the division of the master image into picture strips is effected in a manner such that the picture strips abut one another in a seamless manner and that the light quantity per pixel column orientated in the scroll direction, which serves for exposure, is set such that the optical impression of the left and of the right edge of the picture strip is identical, so that a uniform exposure of the complete printing plate results.